

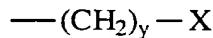
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ether-capped poly(oxyalkylated) alcohol having the formula:



wherein, R is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon radicals having from about 1 to about 30 carbon atoms; R¹ may be the same or different, and is independently selected from the group consisting of branched or linear C₂ to C₇ alkylene in any given molecule; R² is selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a 4 to 8 membered substituted, or unsubstituted heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 3 hetero atoms;
- (ii) a 7 to 13 membered substituted, or unsubstituted polycyclic ring;
- (iii) a hydrocarbon of the formula:



wherein, y is an integer from 1 to 7, X is a 4 to 8 membered substituted, or unsubstituted, partially unsaturated cyclic or aromatic hydrocarbon radical; and

- (iv) a hydrocarbon radical of the formula:

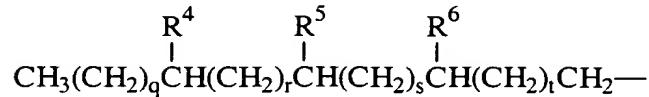


wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon radicals having from about 1 to about 30 carbon atoms, provided that when R³ is methyl, R is branched.

wherein x is a number from 1 to about 30.

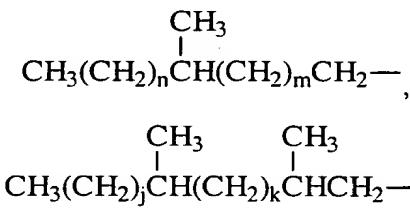
2. The compound as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from about 1 to about 20 carbon atoms.
3. The compound as claimed in Claim 2 wherein R is a linear or branched, saturated, aliphatic hydrocarbon radicals having from about 4 to about 18 carbon atoms.

4. The compound as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R has the formula:



wherein R⁴, R⁵, and R⁶ are each independently selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₃ alkyl, and mixtures thereof, provided that R⁴, R⁵, and R⁶ are not all hydrogen and, when t is 0, at least R⁴ or R⁵ is not hydrogen; q, r, s, t are each independently integers from 0 to 13.

5. The compound as claimed in Claim 4 wherein R has the formula:



wherein n, m, j and k are each independently integers from 0 to 13.

6. The compound as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R² is a hydrocarbon radical of the formula:

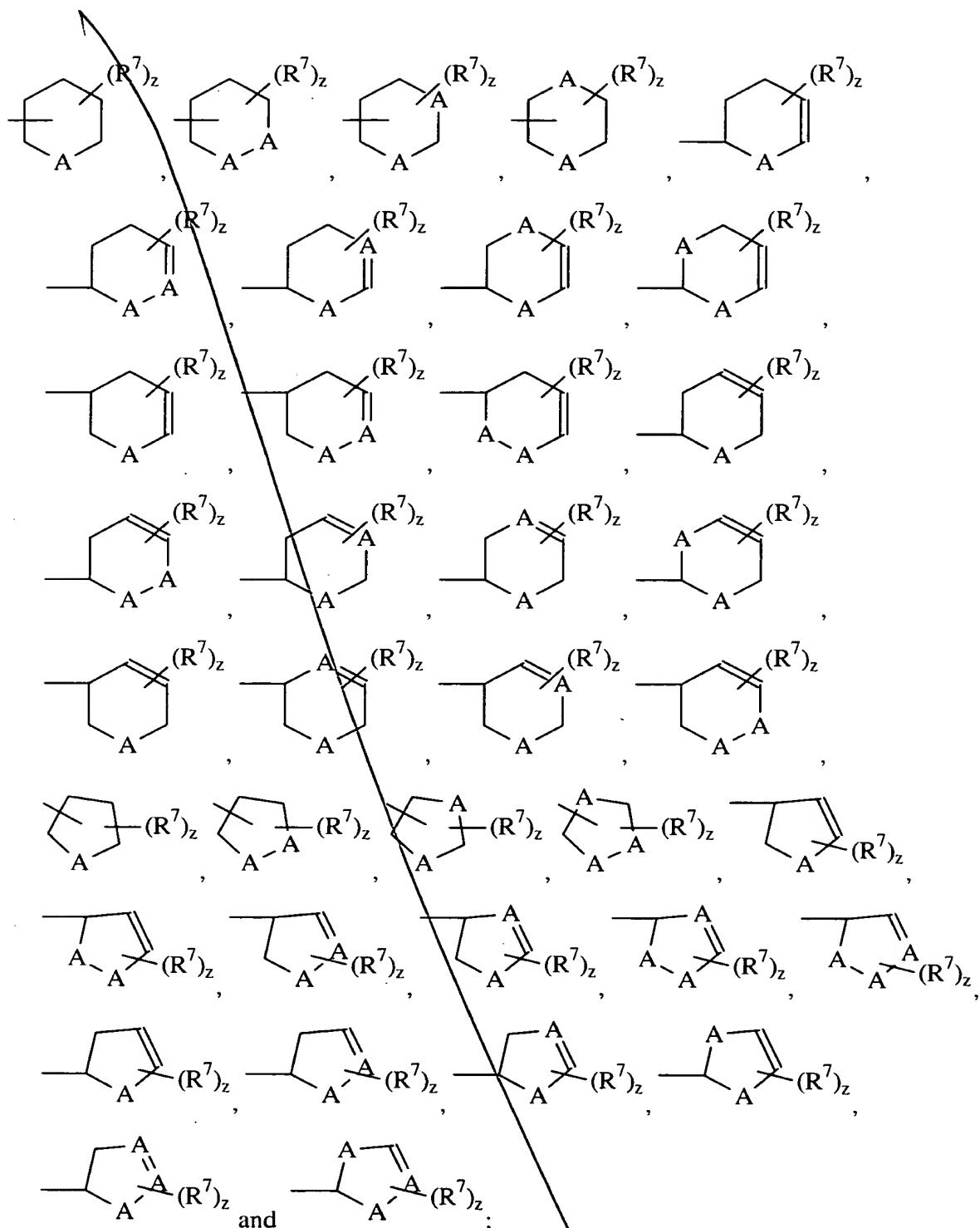


wherein R³ is defined as above.

7. The compound as claimed in Claim 6 wherein R³ is CH₃CH₂.

8. The compound as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R is a 4 to 8 member substituted, or unsubstituted heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 3 hetero atoms.

9. The compound as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said heterocycle is selected from the group consisting of:

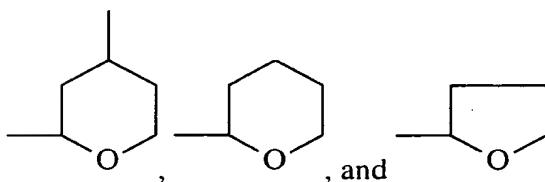


wherein each R^7 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from about 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, or R^7 is a

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saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted, alicyclic or aromatic hydrocarbon or alkoxy radical having, from about 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, which is fused to the heterocyclic ring; each A is independently selected from the group consisting of O, and N(R⁸)_a, wherein R⁸ is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from about 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, and a is either 0 or 1; z is an integer from 1 to 3.

10. The compound as claimed in Claim 9 wherein said heterocycle is selected from the group consisting of:



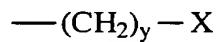
11. The compound as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R² is a 7 to 13 membered substituted, or unsubstituted polycyclic ring.

12. The compound as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, aliphatic hydrocarbon radicals having from about 7 to about 11 carbon atoms; R¹ is ethyl; x is a number from 6 to about 10; and R² is selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon radical of the formula:



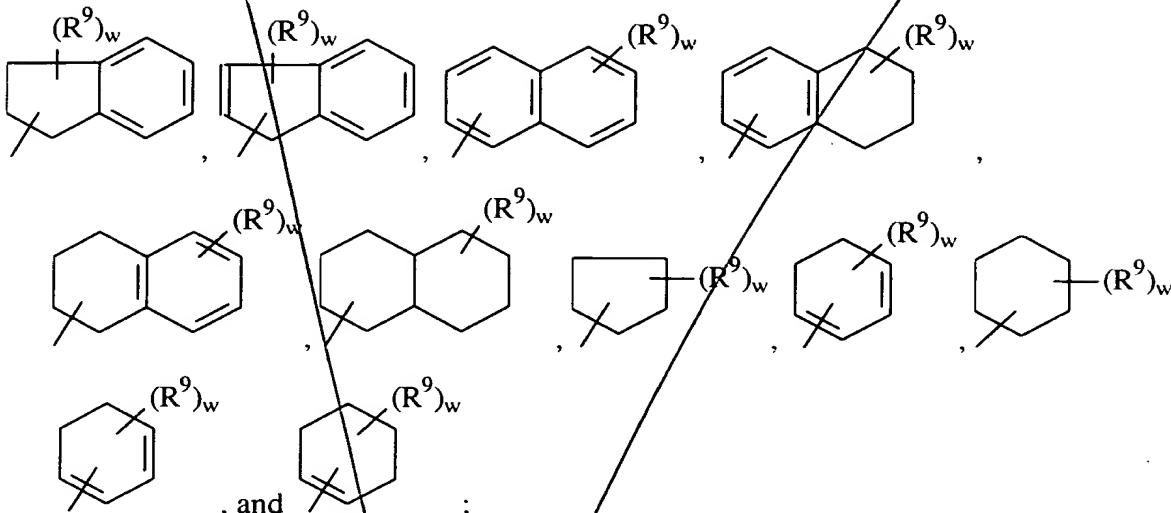
wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, aliphatic radicals having from about 2 to about 5 carbon atoms.

13. The compound as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R² is a hydrocarbon of the formula:



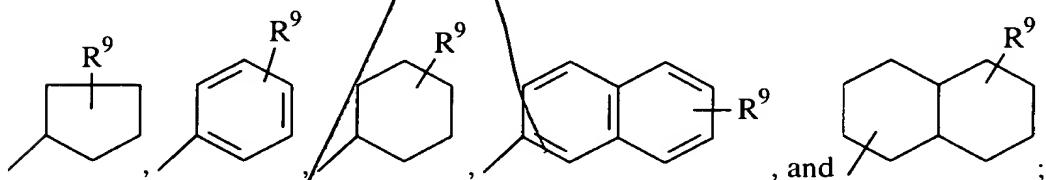
wherein, y is an integer from 1 to 7; and X is a 4 to 8 membered substituted, or unsubstituted, partially unsaturated cyclic or aromatic hydrocarbon radical.

14. The compound as claimed in Claim 13 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of:



wherein each R^9 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic hydrocarbon or alkoxy radical having from about 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, or R^9 is a saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted, alicyclic or aromatic hydrocarbon radical having, from about 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, which is fused to the ring; w is an integer from 1 to 3.

15. The compound as claimed in Claim 14 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of:



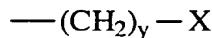
wherein R^9 is defined as above.

16. A process for preparing an ether-capped poly(oxyalkylated) alcohol having the formula:



wherein, R is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon radicals having from about 1 to about 30 carbon atoms; R¹ may be the same or different, and is independently selected from the group consisting of branched or linear C₂ to C₇ alkylene in any given molecule; R² is selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a 7 to 13 membered substituted, or unsubstituted polycyclic ring;
- (ii) a hydrocarbon of the formula:



wherein, y is an integer from 1 to 7, X is a 4 to 8 membered substituted, or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated cyclic or aromatic hydrocarbon radical; and

- (iii) a hydrocarbon radical of the formula:



wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon radicals having from about 1 to about 30 carbon atoms, provided that when R³ is methyl, R is branched;

wherein x is a number from 1 to about 30; comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing an alcohol of the formula



wherein R² is as defined above;

- (b) providing an alkoxylated alcohol of the formula



wherein R, R¹, and x, are as defined above;

- (c) reacting said alcohol with said alkoxylated alcohol in the presence of a catalyst to form said ether-capped poly(oxyalkylated) alcohol.

17. The process as claimed in Claim 16 wherein R is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, aliphatic hydrocarbon radicals having from about 7 to about 11 carbon atoms; R¹ is CH₂CH₂; x is a number from 6 to about 10; and R² is selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon radical of the formula:



wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, aliphatic radicals having from about 2 to about 5 carbon atoms.

18. The process as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said catalyst is selected from the group consisting of mineral acids, sulfonic acids and their salts.

19. The process as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said catalyst is selected from the group consisting of p-toluenesulfonic acid, methanesulfonic acid, polymeric catalysts, TiCl₄, TiCl₂, Ti(OⁱPr)₄, ZnCl₂, ZnCl₄, SnCl₄, AlCl₃, BF₃-OEt₂, AMBERYLST®15, DOWEX 50X8-50, and mixtures thereof.

20. The process as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said step of reacting of alcohol with alkoxylated alcohol is conducted in the presence of a solvent wherein said solvent is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, dichloromethane, tetrahydrofuran, diethylether, methyl tert-butylether, and mixtures thereof.

21. The process as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said step of reacting alcohol with alkoxylated alcohol is conducted as a temperature of from about -20°C to about 300°C.

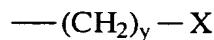
22. The process as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said step of reacting alcohol with alkoxylated alcohol is conducted in the absence of a solvent.

23. A process for preparing an ether-capped poly(oxyalkylated) alcohol having the formula:



wherein, R, R¹, and x are as defined above; R² is selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a 4 to 8 membered substituted, or unsubstituted heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 3 hetero atoms;
- (ii) a 7 to 13 membered substituted, or unsubstituted polycyclic ring;
- (iii) a hydrocarbon of the formula:



wherein, y is an integer from 1 to 7, X is a 4 to 8 membered substituted, or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated cyclic or aromatic hydrocarbon radical; and

- (iv) a hydrocarbon radical of the formula:



wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon radicals having from about 1 to about 30 carbon atoms, provided that when R³ is methyl, R is branched;

wherein x is a number from 1 to about 30; comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing an alpha-olefin
- (b) providing an alkoxylated alcohol of the formula

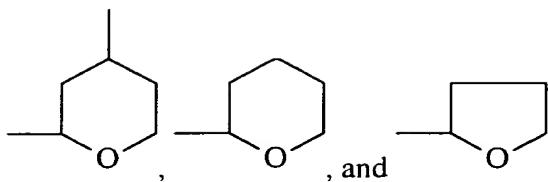


wherein R, R¹, and x are as defined above;

- (c) reacting said alkoxylated alcohol with said alpha-olefin to form said ether-capped poly(oxyalkylated) alcohol.

24. The process as claimed in Claim 23 wherein R is a 4 to 8 member substituted, or unsubstituted heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 3 hetero atoms.

25. The process as claimed in Claim 23 wherein said heterocycle is selected from the group consisting of:



25. The process as claimed in Claim 23 wherein R is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, aliphatic hydrocarbon radicals having from about 7 to about 11 carbon atoms; R¹ is CH₂CH₂; x is a number from 6 to about 10; and R² is selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon radical of the formula:



wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, aliphatic radicals having from about 2 to about 5 carbon atoms.

26. The process as claimed in Claim 23 wherein said step of reacting of alpha-olefin with alkoxylated alcohol is conducted in the presence of a catalyst.

27. The process as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said catalyst is selected from the group consisting of mineral acids, carboxylic acids, sulfonic acids, sulfinic acids, halogenated carboxylic acids, pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate, polymeric catalysts, TiCl₄, Ti(O*i*Pr)₄, ZnCl₂, SnCl₄, AlCl₃, BF₃-OEt₂, AMBERYLST®15 and mixtures thereof.

28. The process as claimed in Claim 26 wherein said catalyst is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, oxalic acid, glycolic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, glycolic acid, maleic acid oxydisuccinic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, heptafluorobutyric acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, *p*-toluenesulfonic acid, *p*-toluenesulfinic acid, methanesulfonic acid, 4-bromobenzenesulfonic acid, naphthalenesulfonic acid, (+)-10-camphorsulfonic acid and isomers, alkylbenzenesulfonic acid, xylenesulfonic acid, cumenesulfonic acid and mixtures thereof.

29. The process as claimed in Claim 23 wherein said step of reacting of alpha-olefin with alkoxylated alcohol is conducted in the presence of a solvent, wherein said solvent is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, dichloromethane, tetrahydrofuran, diethylether, methyl tert-butylether, and mixtures thereof.

30. The process as claimed in Claim 23 wherein said step of reacting alpha-olefin with alkoxylated alcohol is conducted as a temperature of from about -20°C to about 300°C.

31. The process as claimed in Claim 23 wherein said step of reacting alpha-olefin with alkoxylated alcohol is conducted in the absence of a solvent.

32. An ether-capped poly(oxyalkylated) alcohol prepared according to the process of Claim 16.

33. An ether-capped poly(oxyalkylated) alcohol prepared according to the process of Claim 23.

34. A detergent composition comprising an ether-capped poly(oxyalkylated) alcohol prepared according to the process of Claim 16.

35. A detergent composition comprising an ether-capped poly(oxyalkylated) alcohol prepared according to the process of Claim 23.